Committee of expert to request ways and means to restore people's faith in the system; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Criteria for appointment of Notaries

555. SHRI V. N. GADGIL: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of notaries appointed by the Government; and

(b) what are the criteria for their appointment?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) Total number of Notaries appointed by the Central Government as on 24.2.2000 is 1586.

(b) As regards criteria for appointing Notaries by the Central Government, the Notaries are appointed under the Notaries Act, 1952 and the Notaries Rules, 1956. Under Rule 3 of the said Rules, a person may apply for appointment as a Notary if he has been practising as a Legal Practitioner for ten years. In case the applicant for notaryship is a person belonging either to the Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes and other Backward Classes or a women, then the condition for eligibility for appointment as a Notary is seven years of legal practice. The above categories of advocates may apply for appointment as Notary on the prescribed form (Memorial) which has to be countersigned by a Magistrate, a Bank Manager, a Merchant and two prominent local residents. Thereafter, the Competent Authority examines the application and may ascertain from State Bar Council, Bar Association and other authority in the area where the applicant proposes to practise as Notary, the objections, if any, to the appointment of the applicant as Notary. The applicant is also given an opportunity of hearing against the objections, if any. After

considering the objections and the various factors mentioned in Rule 7 of the Notaries Rules, 1956, a decision to recommend appointment or rejection of the applicant is taken by the Competent Authority. On the basis of the recommendations of the Competent Authority, decision is taken by the Central Government to appoint or not to appoint the applicant as Notary.

Improvement in Court Proceedings

†556. SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any improvement is being made in respect of court proceedings which take many years to give judgement with a view to provide quick benefit of judicial system;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) to (c) Various measures have been taken by the Government to simplify procedures and speed up disposal of cases. These include amendment of the Civil Procedure Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure, increase in the number of posts of Judges/Judicial Officers, establishment of Special Courts/tribunals and adoption of alternative modes of dispute resolution, such as, arbitration and conciliation. Lok Adalats have been given a statutory base as supplementary forum for resolution of disputes.

So far as the Supreme Court of India is concerned, the pendency has already come down from 1,06,397 cases in 1991 to 20,260 cases as on 1.2.2000. This was possible due to more practical categorisation and classification of cases, stabilisation of Benches, avoiding delisting as far as possible and ensuring non-accumulation of defective matters and prompt listing of cases. Similar measures are also being taken by the High Courts.

Speedy disposal of cases is a continuous process.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.